



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

September 11, 2008

Laurie Poissonnier, RPC Co-Chair
27 Evergreen Lane
Durham, ME 04222

Dear Ms. Poissonnier,

Thank you for the revised Reorganization Plan that you submitted on behalf of MSAD 62, Freeport School Department and Durham School Department on September 4, 2008 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete a reorganization plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- All information submitted as required.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

** Required Elements*

12. As requested in my December 14, 2007 and August 22, 2008 letters, each regional school unit's plan must provide an estimate of the cost savings to be

achieved by the formation of a regional school unit and how these savings will be achieved in accordance with 20-A MRSA 1461(3)(A)(12) and in sufficient detail to provide clear direction for the new regional school unit. Please provide the information regarding estimated cost savings; and please consider using the guidance offered in the Drummond Woodsum workshop materials.

13. Please clarify why such an agreement would be needed between members of the same regional school unit.

13-D. Please provide clarification as to why these various agreements are needed if all these parties are included as members of the new regional school unit.

Please clarify how the payments described in this section are in compliance with Title 20-A MRSA, Section 1479 as amended by P.L. 2007, Chapter 668 as requested in my August 22, 2008 correspondence.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan as soon as possible in order to ensure you meet the November 4, 2008 referendum date requirements. Please include:

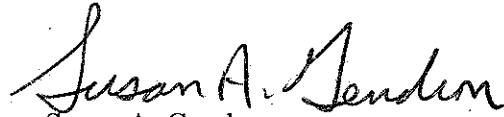
- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page with Signatures
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members, RPC members and others involved with this Reorganization Plan.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan A. Gendron". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

cc: Elaine Tomaszewski, Superintendent, Freeport School Department
Joseph Feeney, Superintendent, MSAD 62
Shannon Welsh, Superintendent, Durham School Department
John Gleason, RPC Co-Chair
Paul Schumann, RPC Co-Chair
Bob Kautz, Facilitator